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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,048	11/17/2003	Victor Chartrand	03-1124-CHART	4279

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, QUYNH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/716,048	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHARTRAND, VICTOR	
	<b>Examiner</b> Quynh H Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,10-15,24 and 35-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,10-15,24 and 35-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Regarding claim 1, the phrase "about" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what exactly "... **about** 7.92 million assignable combinations for landline voice communication devices within each area code", "... at least **about** tripling the number of assignable combinations..." and "... at least **about** sixty-six percent fewer area codes to be used..." are?

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. Claims 1, 10, 15, 35-37, and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brankley et al (U.S. Patent 5,467,390).

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Brankley et al. teach the steps of: one of a plurality of unique sets of prefix characteristics is normally associated with one type of communications device that is connectable to a telecommunications system (col. 4, lines 2-14); assigning one of a plurality of unique multi-digit telephone numbers to each selected customer of the telecommunications system within each area code of each local area (i.e. area code 215) and granting each selected customer having a specific communications device that is connected to the telecommunications system to use a combination comprising any one of the unique sets of prefix characteristics plus the unique telephone number to identify

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the specific device (col. 5, lines 34-50); receiving a sequence of signals representing a set of prefix characteristics immediately preceding a telephone number, the set of prefix characteristics being distinguishable from said telephone number and defining a destination for said call, each telephone number having at least one destination (col. 6, lines 14-22); and connecting the call to the destination defined by the set of prefix characteristics (col. 6, lines 22-26).

Brankley et al. do not specifically providing the number of assignable combinations, the percentage of fewer area codes to be used to serve local areas when compared to a conventional telecommunications system, and the limitation without determining the type of communications device to which the call is directed but rather Brankley et al. teach the California user dials prefix 1111 plus number 215-443-1234 and need not have knowledge of the distinct facsimile number of the Pennsylvania customer and will be connected to a facsimile message at 2.4 KB (col. 6, lines 14-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that there are certain predefined assignable combinations of numbers can be assigned within each area code even though Brankley et al. do not mention in his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim 35 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 15. Furthermore, Brankley et al. teach means for accepting a

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combination comprising a code and a common telephone number as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the particular subscriber (col. 5, line 25 through col. 6, line 26).

Regarding claims 36 and 44, Brankley et al. teach means for accepting is selected from the group consisting of: a line / land line telephone (Fig. 3, 44, 64); a cellular or wireless telephone (col. 5, line 39 - a Cellular Phone or PCN); a facsimile machine (Fig. 3, 48, 68); and a pager col. 5, line 38 - Beeper).

Regarding claim 37, Brankley et al. teach the code is selected from a prefix that precedes an area code (col. 5, lines 30-50), a prefix that follows an area code, a suffix that precedes an area code, and a suffix that follows an area code (col. 8, lines 49-65 - utilizing prefix coding also extend to utilize prefix that follows an area code).

Claim 42 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 35. Furthermore, Brankley et al. teach means for assigning a common telephone number to the particular subscriber (col. 5, line 35 and col. 7, lines 59-62); obviously a telephone call to directory number 215-466-6600 alone is an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific land line telephone.

Regarding claim 43, Brankley et al. teach at least one communication device - landline telephone is in service (col. 7, lines 59-62).

4. Claims 2-4, 11-14, 24, 38-41, and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brankley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,467,390) in view of Catron et al. (U.S. Patent 5,018,191).

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Regarding claims 2-4, 11-12, 38-41 and 45-47, Brankley et al. teach the set of prefix codes is added to a directory number to identify the type of communication (col. 3, line 61 thru col. 4, line 14 and col. 5, lines 28-50). However, Brankley et al. do not specifically suggest the # and \* symbols.

Catron et al. teaches assigning a directory number for the destination, the directory number being the prefix for the destination plus the telephone number (such as # plus one or more digits - col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the above mentioned feature as taught by Catron, in Brankley's system in order to have more specific types of prefix that can add to a directory number in order to identify the desired type of communication.

Regarding claim 13, Brankley and Catron do not teach determining if a call is made from a cellular telephone or a land-based telephone, the call being routed through at least one cellular network. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the central office would recognize whether the call is made from a cellular telephone or a land-based telephone for complete routing the call. For example, a cellular telephone call will route to cell site, Mobile Switching Center, then to destination while a land-based telephone call will route to/from Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

Regarding claim 14, Brankley and Catron do not teach directing the call to a cellular processing network if the set of prefix characteristics indicates that the

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call is made to a cellular telephone. Obviously, a call to a cellular telephone can prefix such as \*, \* plus one or more digits, for example \*2 or \*C.

Claim 24 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 15. Furthermore, Brankley et al. teach an administrative subsystem (Fig. 3, 52 and 60), and Catron et al. teach the steps of: a network (Fig. 1) having a routing apparatus including a switching component ("LEC 106") and an identification component for processing a call to a destination ("processor 114"), the call including a sequence of signals indicating a set of prefix characteristics (such as #) and a telephone number for a specific communication device (col. 4, line 41 through col. 5, line 4).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

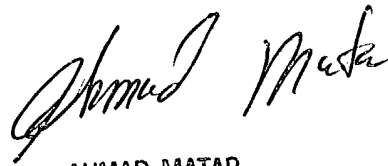
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

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qhn

Quynh H. Nguyen  
September 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ahmad Matar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ahmad" and last name "Matar" clearly distinguishable.

AHMAD MATAR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600